

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 13, 14, and 24-30 are currently active in this case. Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 17-23 have been canceled, and Claims 24-30 have been added by way of the present amendment. Each new Claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the courtesy of an interview with the Examiner and her supervisory Examiner on Friday, March 18, 2005. During the course of the interview, Applicants' previously filed amendment was discussed and it was agreed that Claims 7 and 13 appeared, subject to further search, to be allowable over the cited art. This Supplemental Amendment was approved to the extent it moved forward with Claims 7, 13, and claims dependent therefrom, and it was noted that the other claims would be given further consideration if a continuation application were to be filed.

Applicants respectfully request cancellation without prejudice of Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 17-23. Applicants respectfully submit new Claims 24-30 each ultimately dependent from either Claim 7 or Claim 13, already deemed allowable (subject to the Examiner's further search).

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
REED SMITH LLP

Dated: 3/24/2005By: 

Name: John W. Carpenter
Registration No. 39,129
Attorney for Applicant

Two Embarcadero Center
Suite 2000
PO Bo 7936
San Francisco, CA 94120-7936
Direct Dial (415) 659-5927
(415) 543-8700 Telephone
(415) 391-8269 Facsimile